

REMARKS

I. General

Claims 7-11, 16-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6 and 12-15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 16-27 are newly presented. The outstanding issues in the Final Office Action are as follows:

- Claims 7, 8, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,924,170 to Henze (hereinafter *Henze*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,834,925 to Chesavage (hereinafter *Chesavage*); and
- Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Henze* in view of *Chesavage* and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0095036 to Wasaki et al. (hereinafter *Wasaki*).

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding claim rejections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

II. Claim Amendments

Claim 7 has been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim certain subject matter that Applicant regards as inventive. Support can be found in the specification, for example, on paragraphs [0015]; Figure 2, item 22; and Figure 5, step 502. No new matter has been added.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7, 8, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of *Henze* and *Chesavage*, and claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of *Henze*, *Chesavage*, and *Wasaki*. Applicant traverses the rejections and asserts that the claims are allowable, at least, for the reasons stated below.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the references' teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2143. Applicant asserts that the rejection does not satisfy the basic criteria.

A. Independent Claim 7

Claim 7, as amended, recites:

connecting a plurality of power supplies in parallel;
setting, via a power selector circuit, a maximum effective voltage for each of said plurality of power supplies to cascade from a highest effective voltage for a first of said plurality to a lowest effective voltage for a last of said plurality; and
interfacing said plurality of power supplies with said electronic load through said power selector circuit.

First, Applicant respectfully points out that the Examiner has previously relied upon *Henze* as teaching or suggesting a connection interface. Final Office Action, page 4. However, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Henze* is silent regarding a power selector circuit, as recited in the amended claim. Moreover, *Chesavage* and *Wasaki* are also silent with respect to interfacing a plurality of power supplies with an electronic load through a power selector circuit. Therefore, the cited references, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the features of claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of record with respect to claim 7.

B. Dependent Claims 8-11

Dependent claims 8-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 7, thus inheriting all the limitations of that independent claim. As noted above, the combination of *Henze* and *Chesavage* fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 7. Consequently, the combination of *Henze* with *Chesavage* also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of dependent claims 8, 10, and 11. Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wasaki* fails to teach or suggest the aforementioned limitations. Therefore, the combination of *Henze*, *Chesavage*, and *Wasaki* fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of record with respect to claims 8-11.

IV. Newly Presented Claims

Claims 16-27 have been added by the present amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim certain subject matter that Applicant regards as inventive. Support can be found in the specification generally and specifically on paragraphs [0015], [0017], and [0019]; and Figures 2 and 3. No new matter has been added.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Henze*, *Chesavage*, and *Wasaki* are completely silent regarding several limitations recited in claims 16-27. Therefore, the cited references, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claimed features of claims 16-27. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass claims 16-27 to issue.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200300353-1, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV 568267080US in an envelope addressed to: M/S R.C.E., Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Date of Deposit: October 19, 2006

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